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September 5, 2002

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW, TW-B204
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On behalf of the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce and its member businesses collectively representing over 650,000 employees throughout the Washington metropolitan region, I would like to take this opportunity to express our strong support for the joint applications of Verizon for authorization under Section 271 of the Communications Act to provide in-region, interlata service in the state of Virginia (WC Docket No. 02-214.)

The approval of Verizon's request to offer long-distance service in the Commonwealth of Virginia is extremely important. By fostering full competition in the telecommunications industry, significant benefits can be achieved for businesses and individual consumers including lower prices for long-distance service, a single provider for all telecommunications services, reduced confusion over long-distance options, bundling of services resulting in the receipt of a single bill, and increased investment in the state and local telecommunications infrastructure. In addition, Verizon is a well respected member of the business community and has received positive evaluations from the Virginia State Corporation Commission and independent reviewers based on operations support systems testing and compliance with criteria specified in the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996. All of these factors signal that the timing is ripe for Verizon's entrance into Virginia's long distance market.

On behalf of the Northern Virginia business community, I strongly urge your approval of the above referenced application. Thank you very much for your kind consideration and I look forward to your favorable decision on this subject.

Sincerely,

Donna H. Engelson

Donna H. Engelson
Interim President & CEO

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